



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

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July 27, 2006

Dr. Rodney Cluck
Branch of Environmental Assessment
Minerals Management Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Scope of Review for Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact
Statement**

Dear Dr. Cluck,

On behalf of my constituents who have concerns about the scope and impact of the Cape Wind proposal, I would like to submit comments on the scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Cape Wind. It is essential that as the project review effort moves from the Army Corps to Minerals Management Service (MMS) a thorough and fully informed assessment of both impacts and benefits be undertaken. I ask that you make every effort to avoid the mis-steps of the Army Corps which led to what many believe was a flawed review process, and, ultimately, to rejection of the first DEIS by several major state and federal review agencies, environmental organizations, area elected officials, local businesses and a multitude of citizens.

While I am a strong supporter of renewable energy, a new program for development of offshore renewable energy resources must be approached with the utmost care and attention. This first of its kind review must set a high standard for reviews of similar projects in the future. For this reason, I believe that a host of issues of direct interest to residents of the Cape and Islands must take center stage in the review process. As part of the preparation of the Cape Wind DEIS, I ask that MMS address the following matters in development of the scope of the document, to the degree of detail fitting of a project that would be the first of its kind in the United States, and the largest such project in the world:

- a) a broad statement of project purpose and need so that solutions are not limited to the area in the immediate Nantucket Sound region;
- b) extensive review of alternatives to Cape Wind, including onshore projects and additional offshore sites beyond the four identified by MMS;
- c) public safety issues regarding recreational boating, commercial and public transit vessel traffic, and commercial and private aircraft navigation;
- d) independent assessment of economic impacts and risks associated with the project, including on tourism, property values, commercial fishing, transportation, and jobs;
- e) compliance with regulations that towns and Barnstable County have in place with regard to protection of coastal resources;
- f) near-shore and offshore construction impacts including truck traffic through communities, vessel traffic offshore, and airspace traffic such as helicopters carrying personnel and equipment to the construction site;
- g) noise and visual impacts associated with project construction and operation;
- h) water turbidity from disturbance of bottom sediments during project construction and operation;
- i) potential for pollution of near-shore water and shellfishing beds from spills of petroleum or other hazardous materials associated with construction and operation of the facility;
- j) potential for pollution and other adverse effects from spills of liquids that may not be hazardous in of themselves but may have adverse effects from the quantity of a spill.

In terms of land-based impacts for communities where infrastructure connections are contemplated, consideration must be given to:

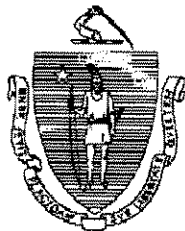
- a) local zoning ordinances;
- b) local conservation commission by-law requirements; and
- c) type and impact of infrastructure associated with construction and operation of the facility;

In addition, since the project is proposed to take place on public land, subsidized with public dollars, a complete cost/benefit analysis must be provided to the public for review as part of the DEIS, including a business plan that reveals both capital investment and projected profits for the project developers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

CLEON H. TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1st Barnstable District



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MESSAGE: Letter RE: Cape Wind Draft Env. Impact Statement